

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A method of microbially deactivating items and storing the same, comprising the steps of:
 - a) placing items within a cavity in a sealable container having fluid access ports therein, said fluid access ports having a normally closed position and being moveable to an open position;
 - b) placing said container having items to be microbially deactivated in said cavity into a reprocessor having a circulation system for circulating a microbial deactivation fluid during a deactivation cycle, wherein thereby causing said fluid access ports in said container to move are moved to said open position by contacting actuating means on said reprocessor to be in fluid communication with said circulation system[[s]];
 - c) circulating said microbial deactivation fluid through said cavity of said container; and
 - d) removing said container from said reprocessor following a deactivation cycle, wherein removal of said container from said reprocessor causes thereby causing said fluid access ports to assume said normally closed position.
2. (currently amended) A method as defined in claim 1, further comprising the step of:
 - e) storing said container with said ~~deactivated~~ items therein for a period of time.
3. (original) A method as defined in claim 2, further comprising the step of:

f) placing said container in a heated chamber to dry off moisture in said container.

4. (currently amended) A method of microbially deactivating items and storing the same, comprising the steps of:

a) placing items to be deactivated into a cavity in a sealable container having a controllable fluid access port ~~therein to allow fluid access into said cavity, said fluid access port being moveable between a normally closed position and an open position;~~

b) placing said container having items to be deactivated therein into a reprocessor having a circulation system for circulating a microbial deactivation fluid through said cavity ~~thereby causing said fluid access port to move to said open position from said normally closed position;~~

c) circulating said microbial deactivation fluid through said cavity;

d) removing said container following a deactivation cycle ~~thereby causing said fluid access port to move to said normally closed position;~~ and

e) storing said container with said deactivated items therein.

5. (original) A method as defined in claim 4, wherein said microbial deactivation fluid is a liquid solution.

6. (original) A method as defined in claim 5, further comprising the step of:

f) heating items within said container to evaporate moisture from said items.